

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/653,249
Sughrue Ref: Q77285

The pertinent portion of claim recites as follows:

an auxiliary operating member for auxiliary winding the fishing line on the spool provided at a position in which the auxiliary operating member can be operated by a finger of an angler's hand holding the fishing rod to which the reel body is attached.

In Fig. 8, and by way of example only, the auxiliary operating member is identified by reference numeral 55 and includes the lever-shaped operation portion 58. The purpose of the auxiliary operating member is to allow the fishing line to be wound on the spool using the same hand that holds the fishing rod.

Hitomi does not teach or suggest this feature of the invention. In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that reference numerals 150 and 160 in Figs. 5-8 of Hitomi correspond to the claimed auxiliary operating member. However, these members are not used for winding the fishing line on the spool 30, as the Examiner contends. Rather, these members are used for controlling the drag mechanism to apply a braking force to the spool 30 when the fishing line is pulled in the unwinding direction R. This is discussed in col. 4, lines 52-57 of Hitomi, which recites as follows:

The one-way friction mechanism 160 oscillates the arm 150 up to a position shown in FIG. 7 only when the rotary shaft 60 rotates in the fishing line unwinding direction R to mesh the intermediate gear 140 with the input gear 120, whereby the spool 30 receives a braking force from the drag mechanism A.

Thus, Hitomi clearly does not teach, or for that matter suggest, any of the features recited in independent claim 1 of the application.

In view of the allowability of claim 1, it is submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-10 should be allowed. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application be

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passed to issue at the earliest convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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